

Program Authorization: Seaman to Admiral-21 (STA-21) Nurse Corps Option commissioning program. STA-21 Nurse Corps Option will facilitate the completion of a baccalaureate degree in Nursing and enhance upward mobility by providing an opportunity for enlisted personnel to obtain a commission. The program manager is Naval Service Training Command (NSTC)/Officer Development (OD) DSN 922-9437. BUPERS 315 is the Nurse Corps Community Manager.

1. Program Authority: Title 10, USC 532, 2013, 6323 and 12201 to 12209.

2. Cancellation: Program Authorization 150H of March 2007.

3. Quota: As prescribed by the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education), (MPT&E), DCNO N1.

4. Qualifications:

a. Citizenship: Applicants must be citizens of the United States. Waivers will not be granted.

b. Gender: Open to male and female applicants.

c. Age: Must be at least 18 years old and able to complete 20 years of active commissioned service by age 62.

d. Education:

(1) STA-21 Nurse Corps Option participants will attend NROTC affiliated colleges or universities with nursing programs that confer a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing that is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

(2) Participants will be enrolled as full-time students throughout the year (including summer sessions).

(3) Participants must remain at the university in which they initially enrolled and will not be permitted to transfer to another university while participating in STA-21 Nurse Corps Option program.

(4) STA-21 Nurse Corps Option participants are exempt from the two semesters Calculus and Calculus-based Physics minimum requirement of STA-21 Core program. However, they are required to meet the math and science requirements of their Nursing degree program.

(5) All STA-21 Nurse Corps Option participants must be able to complete requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from a National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) or Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accredited program at a NROTC affiliated college or university within 36 consecutive months from date of enrollment. No waivers over 36 months will be approved.

(6) Participants must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

(7) Applicants must be accepted by the university to which he/she is applying, and have a minimum of 45 quarter or 30 semester credit hours in undergraduate nursing prerequisite courses. Credit hours may be a combination of traditional classroom courses, College Level Entry Program (CLEP) credit, on-line or distance learning programs, or military training credits provided the school to which the application is made accepts the non-traditional credits.

(8) Applicants must provide SAT or ACT scores. Minimum SAT or ACT score is 1000 SAT (500 Math and 500 Verbal) or 41 ACT combined Math/English (not less than 21 Math and 20 English).

(9) Participation in a non-mandatory co-op or work study program will not be authorized if such participation will cause delay in the projected graduation date.

(10) Selectees will not be permitted to extend their projected graduation date, cease attending classes, change majors, enter exchange programs, or transfer schools without specific approval of NSTC OD. Failure to obtain prior approval may result in disenrollment.

(11) Waivers of these educational requirements may be granted by DCNO N1 with recommendation provided by NSTC OD on a case-by-case basis.

(12) In addition to disenrollment for academic reasons, candidates may be disenrolled because of discipline/moral problems (drug usage, civil convictions, etc.) by the DCNO N1 as recommended by NSTC OD.

e. Physical Requirements: Must meet the physical standards for service on active duty as recommended by the Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED). DCNO N1, upon recommendation of BUMED, may waive physical defects that will not interfere with the performance of active duty within the guidelines of NAVMED P-117.

f. Marital status: No restrictions.

g. Time in service: No restrictions.

5. Source:

a. Applicants must be serving on active duty in the U.S. Navy or Full Time Support (FTS), or Selected Reserve (SELRES), and Navy Reservists on active duty except for those on active duty for training (ACDUTRA) to include annual training (AT) and initial active duty for training (I-ACDUTRA).

b. Disciplinary Actions. Applicants must have no record of courts-martial convictions or civilian felony convictions, disciplinary action under Article 15 (Uniform Code of Military Justice), or conviction by civil court for misdemeanors (except minor traffic violations) during the three years preceding the date of application to STA-21. Any substantiated drug abuse while in an enlisted status is disqualifying.

c. A person who is drug or alcohol dependent, abuses drugs or alcohol, or whose pre-service abuse of drugs or alcohol indicates a proclivity to continue abuse in the service or who has a record of any trafficking offenses is ineligible.

6. Funding: Selectees will continue to receive their full enlisted pay and allowances, and remain eligible for promotion while participating. An annual \$10,000 education voucher will be provided to benefit each participant and paid to the educational institution attended. This voucher will be used to pay tuition, fees, and book costs only. Excess funding for vouchers will be remitted by the educational institution to NSTC as program manager. Students may use veterans' benefits in accordance with VA rules. Students may not use Tuition Assistance (TA).

7. Indoctrination: Before beginning full-time college studies, STA-21 participants must attend the eight-week Naval Science Institute (NSI) at OTCN Newport, RI to complete all required officer professional core competencies. While attending their selected NROTC affiliated college or university, STA-21 officer candidates will become members of the NROTC unit and drill, but are only required to take two Naval Science leadership courses since coverage of most material is provided during NSI. Upon completion of their baccalaureate degree program, STA-21 participants will be commissioned as officers in the U.S. Navy.

8. Appointment: Ensign, USN, Nurse Corps, Designator 2900, upon completion of Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing requirements.

9. Active Duty Obligation: Selectees must volunteer to enlist for six years from the date of enrollment. Payment of the selective reenlistment bonus is not authorized for selectees who reenlist for the purpose of meeting this obligated service requirement.

a. Selectees will incur a five-year active duty obligation upon commissioning.

b. Those STA-21 disenrollees who drop on request prior to commissioning will be obligated for five years of enlisted service from the date of program disenrollment or the remainder of their current enlistment, whichever is longer.

c. Those who complete degree requirements but fail to be commissioned will be obligated for five years of enlisted service from the date of program disenrollment.

d. STA-21 Nurse Corps Option Officer Candidates who fail to meet program requirements, but desire consideration for other Unrestricted Line officer opportunities may contact the Nurse Corps Community manager for information regarding conversion to the STA-21 Core program, subject to the requirements of the Nurse Corps Option Program. All degree requirements must be complete within 36 months. No waivers over 36 months will be approved.

e. Additional obligated service may be incurred as a result of special training received following commissioning.

f. Time spent in the STA-21 program will not count towards retirement, however, it will count for pay purposes.

10. License:

a. Nurse Corps Officers must obtain and maintain a license to practice as a Professional Registered Nurse from a state, territory, or the District of Columbia based on the licensing examination provided by the National Council Licensing Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN), provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and administered by one of its member boards of nursing as required by OPNAVINST 1120.7 Series.

b. Appointment as a Nurse Corps officer may occur prior to licensure; however, the NCLEX-RN examination must be taken at the first opportunity following graduation.

c. Obtaining and maintaining a license to practice as a professional nurse is an expense incurred by the individual.

d. Prior to appointment, applicants will be required to acknowledge in writing that they are aware of license requirements.

Approved: _____



A. M. KURTA, RADM, USN
Director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy
Division (N13)

Date: _____

